

Due Diligence and Accountability?

The Negative Impact of U.S. Government Funding for Mideast Political NGOs

Gerald M. Steinberg & Naftali Balanson

May 2013

APPENDICES



Making NGOs Accountable



Making NGOs Accountable

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NGO Monitor's mission is to provide information and analysis, promote accountability, and support discussion on the reports and activities of NGOs claiming to advance human rights and humanitarian agendas.

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APPENDIX 1: TABLES OF NED AND USAID GRANTS DISCUSSED IN THIS REPORT

NED TOTAL¹

Al-Dameer	\$102,200
Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP)	\$21,700
Holy Land Trust	\$124,300
Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI)*	\$185,416
Miftah	\$176,300
Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)	\$34,700
Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC)	\$103,500

NED BY YEAR²

Al-Dameer	2009	\$37,700
	2010	\$31,500
	2011	\$33,000
Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP)	2011	\$21,700
Holy Land Trust	2009	\$37,000
	2010	\$41,000
	approved 1/13/2012	\$46,300
Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI)*	2009	\$185,416
Miftah	2007	\$22,500
	2008	\$30,000
	2009	\$33,000
	2010	\$33,000
	approved 1/13/2012	\$57,800
Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)	2011	\$34,700
Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC)	2009	\$55,000
	2010	\$48,500

*Information regarding the 2009 IPCRI grant was found in the OECD database and was not available on NED's website

1 Source: Correspondence with NED Officials and <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DatasetCode=CRSNEW>

2 Ibid.

H.L. Education (Geneva Initiative)	Advancing Public Support for a Negotiated Agreement	\$553,594	05/2010 -12/2012
Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI)	Jewish and Arab Israeli Youth Defining Shared Citizenship Through Collaborative Community Programs	\$1,000,000	02/2012 - 01/2014
Keshev	Press for Peace: Improving the Israeli and Palestinian Media and Public Discourse	\$1,000,000	05/2010 -05/2013
Keshev (with Givat Haviva)	Communicating Peace	\$403,873 (sub-award)	09/2011 - 09/2013
Parents Circle Family Forum	History through the Human Eye: the Israeli-Palestinian Narrative Project	\$810,000	05/2010 -05/2012
Parents Circle Family Forum	Where Parallel Lines Meet	\$800,000	09/2011 -09/2013
Sikkuy	Equality Zones: Jewish-Arab Regional Forums for Cooperation	\$1,061,275	09/2011 - 12/2014
Windows	Youth Media Program	\$750,000	05/2010 - 05/2013

³ Source: <http://israel.usembassy.gov/cmm2.html>

APPENDIX 2: CORRESPONDENCE WITH AMBASSADOR DANIEL SHAPIRO AND USAID



Embassy of the United States of America

Tel Aviv, Israel
September 6, 2012

Professor Gerald M. Steinberg
President
NGO Monitor
1 Ben Maimon Blvd.
Jerusalem 92262

Dear Professor Steinberg:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review NGO Monitor's draft report on the U.S. government's assistance in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. We appreciate your efforts to increase transparency in a complex environment where one-sided political agendas sometimes sway abundant media attention in rather self-serving directions. We are committed to transparency in all project funding both in our stewardship of American taxpayers' funds and in our commitment to help build peaceful relations between Jews and Arabs in the region.

A just, lasting, and comprehensive peace between Israel and her neighbors is central to American interests and goals in the Middle East, and is a core U.S. national security objective. We continue to work towards this objective through: resumed political negotiations that prioritize Israel's security in the context of work towards the establishment of a Palestinian state; and support for the Palestinian state-building initiative so that a new state has the capacity to govern its people justly and provide needed services from the first day it is established.

U.S. foreign assistance in the West Bank and Gaza is undertaken in support of peace between Israel and her neighbors. Despite the difficult political situation between Israel and the Palestinians, we must continue to do all we can to support a two-state solution. This means: (1) continuing our efforts to support and maintain security and stability - efforts which have benefitted the United States, the Palestinians, and Israel and (2) supporting and protecting the gains that the Palestinian Authority has made in building the institutions of a future Palestinian state.

U.S. assistance programs in the West Bank and Gaza support the development of democratic governance structures and encourage civil society participation in the public sector; promote a viable private sector-led economy that provides jobs for the Palestinian people; improve the PA's capacity to collect revenue and rationalize expenditures; encourage greater freedom of movement of people and goods within the West Bank, and between the West Bank, Gaza, Israel, and abroad; support institutions that deliver high quality government services; and support a robust justice sector and professional security force under civilian command and control.

In pursuit of our goals in the region, the U.S. Department of State and USAID are striving to maximize transparency throughout project and partner selection, implementation, and evaluation of assistance programs.

As a component of our commitment to transparency, it is important to correct false or misleading information about our assistance in the region. We appreciate the opportunity provided by NGO Monitor to correct inaccurate information in the draft NGO Monitor report by elaborating on our assistance offices' policies and procedures. We also thank NGO Monitor for bringing to our attention instances in which information on our programs could be more transparently accessible. We are taking steps to remedy those instances and hope to have our Embassy Tel Aviv and USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission websites improved in this respect prior to the NGO Monitor report going final.

In addition, research inquiries can always be directed to <http://usaspending.gov>, a comprehensive archive of federal assistance awards. For example, information on past and current Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) awards can be found by typing the recipient's name into the search engine. All previous and current MEPI grants to the New Israel Fund, for instance, can be found by searching for "New Israel Fund" at <http://usaspending.gov>. We can also confirm that funding for the Creative Associates Community Leadership Empowerment Program and the International Republican Institute can be found at <http://usaspending.gov> by performing a search using the implementer's name.

The Department of State and USAID strive to award grants to organizations that will contribute to U.S. interests in the region. In response to the NGO Monitor draft report, we have enclosed responses to your questions and information about several USAID projects in Israel and the West Bank and Gaza.

We hope this response enhances understanding of the policy goals that all programming is designed to serve as we pursue a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace between Israel and her neighbors. The U.S. is committed to achieving those goals in a transparent and accountable manner in all funding programs. So again, we welcome NGO Monitor's efforts to enhance transparency and appreciate this opportunity to provide feedback, corrections, and research guidance, and to make our own adjustments where necessary to ensure that our funded projects consistently fulfill their intended purpose of bringing two peoples together in ways that enhance security and trust as the basis for peace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Shapiro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel B. Shapiro
Ambassador

Enclosures: As stated.

USAID RESPONSE TO NGO MONITOR DRAFT REPORT

NGO Monitor Draft Report Excerpt: *Additionally, the grant selection and evaluation processes for many of these frameworks are unclear.*

The grant selection criteria are detailed in the Annual Program Statement (APS), which is the document USAID releases to the public to solicit proposal requests. In the APS, USAID explains the evaluation process for awarding grants and the basis upon which applications will be selected for award. The annual Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) APS is publicly posted and available on the U.S. Government website <http://www.grants.gov>. In addition to the APS, USAID conducts a pre-solicitation conference for interested organizations at which they can ask questions while receiving further explanations about the criteria and evaluation process for the awarding of new CMM grants.

NGO Monitor Draft Report Excerpt: *Political advocacy NGOs in Israel that ran active or recently completed programs with USAID “Peace and Reconciliation Program” include Keshev, H.L. Education (Geneva Initiative), Windows - Channels for Communication and Parents Circle Family Forum. Parents Circle Family Forum is also funded by the United States Institute of Peace, discussed below. (Although these organizations are based in Israel, information on their main projects is accessible through USAID’s West Bank and Gaza program website.)*

The Middle East CMM grants program is managed both by the USAID/West Bank and Gaza (WBG) Mission and by the U.S. Embassy, both located in Tel-Aviv, Israel. These programs encourage people-to-people approaches to conflict reconciliation between Israelis, Palestinians and others in the region. Because the bulk of the program is managed through USAID’s West Bank and Gaza office located in Tel-Aviv, we have in the past made information on these programs publicly available through the USAID website. We appreciate your comment about how this information was only accessible through USAID’s website, and we have rectified this situation by also adding information on the CMM programs on the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv’s website.

NGO Monitor Draft Report Excerpt: *The list on the website list is not complete. For instance, NGO Monitor research found a joint Givat Haviva-Keshev project entitled “Communicating Peace.” No information for the project, including the size of the grant, appears on USAID’S website or in online government databases.*

Keshev is a sub-grantee to Givat Haviva on the Communicating Peace program, and in the past, we have only publicly reported on prime partners; in this case, we reported on Givat Haviva, the prime partner.

NGO Monitor Draft Report Excerpt: *Keshev (three-year grant, \$1 million, “Press for Peace: Improving Israeli and Palestinian Media and Public Discourse”. According to the Keshev website, “Keshev promotes a more moderate media...Keshev urges media editors to carry out the duties incumbent upon media in a democracy and teaches news consumers to evaluate news coverage more critically...” These are subjective terms that allow for the promotion of Keshev’s partisan and ideological agendas, as well as efforts to manipulate Israeli media. For instance, in a report funded by USAID, Keshev falsely accused the Israeli media of “ignoring the wider context of the story and Israel’s responsibility for the continuation of the conflict.” In another USAID-sponsored report regarding the “Free Gaza Flotilla’s confrontation with the Israeli Navy, Keshev alleged (without evidence) that “the message that the activists tried to present against the policy of blockade [of Gaza]...remained outside the public discourse in Israel.”*

Keshev is a grantee under the CMM program. Conflict Management and Mitigation is a Congressionally-mandated program under the State Department, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bill that makes funds available on an annual basis “to support people to people reconciliation programs which bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious and political backgrounds from areas of

civil strife and war.” For the past several years \$10 million (out of the total amount appropriated for this program) has specifically been made available for such programs in the Middle East.

Keshev and other CMM grantees are selected by an inter-agency technical evaluation committee (TEC) comprised of representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, USAID/WBG and USAID/Washington. The TEC committee evaluates and scores each application individually based on the applicants’ responsiveness to the criteria set forth in the Annual Program Statement (a form of a request for applications. The 2012 APS is available to the public on <http://www.grants.gov>) and in consideration of other factors, such as how well the proposed program furthers U.S. foreign policy objectives in the region.

For example, the TEC has focused the application for CMM grants to seek specific programs where participants engage in activities that will clearly benefit from the participation of Israelis and Palestinians in order to reach common goals or resolve shared issues. This focus is based on studies that have shown when such common goals or shared problems are present, communication between groups moved in the direction of reducing conflict. Programs addressing issues in water, farming, tourism, health and the environment will continue to be a focus, in addition to a new Fiscal Year 2012 focus on programs that highlight the role of women, youth and/or the disabled in conflict mitigation.

USAID program managers regularly monitor, track and assess progress of CMM grantees toward achievement of stated program goals and objectives. USAID employs a variety of techniques in monitoring and evaluating ongoing and completed grants, including but not limited to regular site visits, pre- and post-activity surveys, collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, and where feasible and appropriate mid-term and final project evaluations. The results of monitoring and evaluation efforts are used to improve ongoing performance, strengthen future programming and to highlight successful approaches and share lessons-learned. Monitoring and evaluation is also undertaken to ensure that grantees are using USAID funds as approved. If USAID has reason to be concerned with activities undertaken by a grantee, USAID will work with the organization to ensure U.S. Government funds are only used as intended.

NGO Monitor Draft Report Excerpt: *HL Education (18 month grant, \$528,594, “Influencing the attitudes and perceptions of Key Israeli Players.”) Funding for H.L. Education programs (the “Geneva Initiative”) also reflects manipulation of the Israeli democratic process. In August 2010, H. L. Education introduced a public campaign focusing on peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The original version of the H.L. Education press release stated “[t]he campaign is supported with the generous support of the American people through USAID” and featured the USAID logo. The statement and logo were subsequently removed.*

The funding of the Israeli non-governmental organization (NGO) Hinuch L'Shalom Education for Peace (also known as the Geneva Initiative) for two years (May 2010 – December 2012) was part of a worldwide Congressionally--mandated effort to support people-to-people reconciliation programs that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious and political backgrounds from areas of civil strife and war to address the root causes of tension and instability. The August 2010 program was a media campaign showing Palestinian figures speaking to the Israeli public to encourage peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians with the goal of a two-state solution to the conflict.

Given the unintended perception of direct support for political advocacy of one side in the conflict, USAID curtailed further funding for the Israeli NGO’s advertising campaign. The campaign was later funded by non-U.S. government sources only. The USAID logo was subsequently removed since the program was no longer being supported by the U.S. Government.

NGO Monitor Draft Report Excerpt: *Evaluations for the H.L. Education program listed on USAID’s website, “Influencing the Attitudes and Perceptions of Key Israeli Players, which concluded in November 2011, have not been made publically available.*

Although the aforementioned media campaign was curtailed, H.L. Education has continued with the last part of its USAID program, which has supported seminars and workshops with Israelis and Palestinians to improve mutual understanding and foster more favorable attitudes towards reconciliation with those who oppose the peace process. When the program is completed (expected in December 2012) the final evaluation will be conducted.

NGO Monitor Draft Report Excerpt: *Windows (three year grant, \$750,000, Youth Media Program)*. Windows claims to “promote acquaintance and understanding between participants and empowerment toward active citizenship and positive change.” However, its “Youth Media Program,” which consists of “alternative media” and a Hebrew-Arabic Youth Magazine, adopts a Palestinian narrative of the conflict and is a platform for highly offensive comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany.

See previous answer regarding Keshev concerning the inter-agency TEC.

NGO Monitor Draft Report Excerpt: *The Parents Circle Family Forum is a joint Israeli and Palestinian organization, comprised of individuals who “have lost a close family member as a result of the prolonged conflict” and claiming “that the reconciliation between individuals and nations is possible.” The Parents Circle website states that the NGO “has no stated position on the political solution of the conflict, but leading officials use this platform to attack Israeli policies and sponsor public events protesting these policies. The presentations and political activities of the organization’s spokespeople indicate that the NGO is highly ideological, and has adopted and promotes a one--sided narrative of the conflict. This organization is the subject of intense controversy in Israel, particularly from other bereaved parents.*

See previous answer concerning the inter-agency TEC.

USAID RESPONSES TO NGO MONITOR JUNE 18, 2012 EMAIL

1) Besides those listed in the fact sheet,¹ are any other Israeli NGOs currently receiving USAID funding? Which Israeli NGOs received USAID funding in 2009-2011?

Below is a list of the Israeli organizations USAID is funding through the Conflict Management and Mitigation Program:²

Just Vision, Inc. (09/2009-09/2012; \$1,121,500): This U.S.-based organization emerged in response to the lack of coverage of Palestinian and Israeli civilians working to end the conflict. “Multi-Media Education and Outreach Program in Israel and West Bank/Gaza” seeks to end the marginalization of non-violent peace builders in communities and mainstream media by supporting multi-media education and outreach programs.

Right to Play (09/2009-09/2012; \$1,121,902): This Canadian NGO uses specially designed sport and play programs to improve health, develop life skills, and foster peace for children, youth, and communities in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world. The project “Sports and Play” implements sports activities to promote holistic child development and youth engagement to promote peace building, and conflict prevention reconciliation in Palestinian communities benefitting more than 7,500 children and youth.

American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat Al Salam (AFNSWAS) (06/2010-06/2013; \$1,000,000): Sub-awards: School for Peace \$557,818 and Tawasol \$362,182: AFNSWAS is a U.S. NGO that supports a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Israelis, and between Palestinians and Israelis, through dialogue, cooperation, and education. The project “Creating Change Agents: Palestinian and Israeli Professionals in Dialogue and Action” provides participants with the knowledge and tools to create institutional change through a series of dialogues around issues such as equality, security, and identity.

Keshev (05/2010-05/2013; \$1,000,000): Sub-awards: International Peace Cooperation Center (IPCC), \$297,300: The Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel was established by a group of academics, lawyers, and civics to protect and advance democratic values in Israel. The project “Press for Peace: Improving the Israeli and Palestinian Media and Public Discourse” seeks to raise awareness among Israeli and Palestinian journalism professional and students of how media coverage and editing practices affect peace and conflict.

Peace Players International (PPI) (07/2011-06/2013; \$877,493): Since 2001, PPI, a U.S.-based organization, has used the game of basketball to bridge divides, change perceptions, and develop young leaders. The project “Support for Peace Players International – Middle East: Cross-Border Activities” engages nearly 1,000 Palestinian and Israeli children per year to participate in Twinned Basketball Clubs provides participants with the knowledge and tools to create institutional change through a series of dialogues around issues such as equality, security, and identity.

Windows (05/2010-05/2013; \$750,000): Windows is an Israeli non-profit organization of Palestinian and Israeli citizens. The “Youth Media Program” uses media to involve Israeli and Palestinian participants in the experience of acquaintance with the “other,” to communicate with each other about the conflict.

Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) (02/2010-09/2013; \$1,200,000): Sub-awards: Water and Environmental Development Organization, \$921,721: “Good Water Neighbors” and “Promoting Water Conservation and Environmental Education in Jerusalem” projects build on the inter-dependence between Palestinians and Israelis over their shared water resources with a particular focus on cross border community relations. The goal is to advance community reconciliation between 20 Palestinian and Israeli communities by supporting community dialogue on water and environment issues transforming the conflict into cooperation.

¹ Editor's Note: This refers to the December 2011 Fact Sheet (Appendix 3).

² Editor's Note: In separate correspondence, U.S. officials clarified that this list does not include grants of the Conflict Management and Mitigation Program that are managed by the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. See Appendices 3 and 4 for more information, as well as the footnotes there that explain small discrepancies between the various lists.

Israel/Palestine Centre for Research and Information (IPCRI) (02/2012-01/2014; \$1,000,000): IPCRI is an Israeli organization in the field of peace education working with educators and youth. The project “Jewish and Arab Israeli youth defining shared citizenship through collaborative community programs” targets youth living together in mixed cities in Israel, and aims to redefine the nature and quality of their citizenship, promoting shared citizenship and responsibilities.

Hand in Hand 103/2012-02/2015; \$1,080,000): Hand in Hand, Center for Jewish- Arab Education in Israel, is an Israeli organization building peace, coexistence and equality through a network of integrated, bilingual schools for Jewish and Arab children. The project “Shared Community/School Integration” seeks to establish eight Jewish-Arab shared communities; five of these will be built around existing integrated schools, and an additional three in regions without existing schools.

Citizens’ Accord Forum (O9/2011-O9/2014; \$612,414): The Citizens’ Accord Forum for Jews and Arabs in Israel (CAF) is an Israeli organization established with the vision of building a just and equal relationship of accord and stability among Israel’s Jewish and Arab citizens. The project “Youth Parliaments of the Mixed Towns of Israel” aims to create youth parliaments in the Israeli cities with large Arab and Jewish populations through dialogue, outreach, and moderated discussions.

Givat Haviva (9/2011-9/2013, \$874,144): Sub-award: Keshev- \$403,873: The Givat Haviva Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding, cooperation and equality between divided groups in Israel as the foundation for building a shared future and shared society. The project “Communicating Peace” aims to improve critical media consumption skills of professionals, Arab educators and youth. The program approach focuses on media monitoring, curriculum development, training on critical media and in-depth dialogue between Arab and Jewish youth.

Creative Associates (9/2011-9/2014; \$1,218,502): The “Shared Youth Vision for Jerusalem” project aims to inspire, train and support a diverse, motivated and entrepreneurial group of young leaders to connect a generation of their peers to a core group of 120 Israelis and Palestinians over three years through cross-border communities envisioning a shared Jerusalem.

The Maccabim Association (1/2012 – 9/2014; \$93,000): This Israeli non-profit organization works to improve social and educational opportunities for dialogue and effective problem solving to promote collaboration on shared interests and to engage local disadvantaged children. The “Goals of Peace” project aims to provide Arab and Jewish youth aged 8-17 with the opportunity to learn about each other, remove harmful stereotypes, and build trust, tolerance, and respect. The program serves 600 Arab and Jewish children in the Wadi Ara region, Jenin, and Lod by combining education and soccer to foster dialogue and reconciliation.

Economic Cooperation Foundation (ECF) (1/2012 – 1/2014; \$1,000,000): This Israeli organization implements a program to promote economic cooperation and policy changes in tourism, trade, and infrastructure planning in the northern Palestinian and Israeli regions of Jenin, Gilboa and Haifa. The program aims to benefit thousands of citizens living in this northern region by widening economic opportunities for tourism entrepreneurs, farmers, and small industrialists.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) (09/2011-12/2013, \$1,000,000): Sub-awards: Reut Sadaka - \$600,876: The “Gemini” project implemented by CRS in partnership with Sadaka Reut, an Arab Jewish Youth Partnership Organization, focuses on bringing together Palestinian and Jewish youth ages 18-25 for an extended period of dialogue, skill-building, mentoring, and activism. The Gemini Project aims to promote an alternative dialogue to militant rhetoric in Jewish and Palestinian communities.

The Adam Institute for Democracy and Peace [9/2011- 9/2014, \$1,193,002): sub- award: Center for Democracy and Community Development - \$407,148: The Adam Institute, an Israeli NGO, works with civil society organizations to enhance their commitment to non-violence and build their capacities to better serve their constituencies. The “Return to the Public Sphere” project conducts a series of workshops for 200 young Israeli and Palestinian civil society leaders aged 21-35.

Ben-Gurion University (9/2011-9/2014; \$760,160): Sub-award: Center for Applied Research in Education - \$120,750: Ben-Gurion University works with educators in Israel and the West Bank dealing with victims of political violence. The “Human Service Professionals and Educators in Israel and Palestine: Building Knowledge and Peace” project aims to identify, implement, and evaluate the most promising, culturally appropriate models of intervention to be used with children, families, and communities coping with trauma and bereavement associated with the ongoing conflict. The project will form and train a cadre of 15 Jewish Israeli, 5 Arab Israeli, and 20 Palestinian human service providers, primarily mental health practitioners and educators who specialize in conflict mitigation. The 40 participants will lead four workshops for 200 Israeli and Palestinian professionals.

Near East Foundation 19/2011-9/2014, \$1,209,502): This U.S. organization based in Nablus works to build relationships and cooperation among Jewish Israeli and Palestinian olive producers in six clusters of villages in Israel and the West Bank. The “Olive Oil without Borders” project will produce economic and social impact through increased income, profitability and cross-border trade, higher levels of trust, and increased collaboration to stimulate cross-border economic cooperation.

Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality (9/2011-12/2014, \$1,061,275): This Israeli NGO engages Israeli Jewish and Arab local officials and civil society leaders to produce joint frameworks for increased economic opportunity. The “Equality Zones: Jewish-Arab Regional Forums for Cooperation” project promotes inclusion of Arab municipalities in statutory government frameworks, small business opportunities and increased employment for Arab women.

Mercy Corps: (9/2011-3/2013; \$1,190,000): Sub-award: Peres Center for Peace - \$40,000: This project brings Palestinian and Israeli youth and companies around a shared interest in information and communication technology (ICT). The “Impact through Technology” project aims to promote peace activism through the enhanced use of social media and to promote economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians in the ICT sector. Palestinian youth will be trained in digital literacy, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaborative work methods through Intel Learn training course.

The State University of New York (SUNY) New Paltz Disaster Institute for Disaster Mental Health: (1/2012-1/2013; \$96,917): “Families First: A Palestinian-Israeli People to People Approach to assist children and caregivers as a means of conflict mitigation and reconciliation” will engage Palestinian and Israeli health and social service professionals to prevent long-term conflict by addressing short-term mental health needs of children and families. 15 mental health and social providers from the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, as well as six trauma experts from the U.S., will collaborate to develop psycho-educational materials to educate parents about the common impact of trauma and about how they can assist their children in coping with exposure to conflict in a manner that minimizes psychological harm.

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies - AIES 105/2012-04/2015; \$561,438): Sub-awards: House of Water and Environment - \$159,525: The project “Mitigating Trans-boundary Waste-Water Conflicts” aims to address, help reduce and prevent further wastewater conflicts and disputes between Israel and the West Bank. AIES works with a Palestinian and an Israeli master level student, 30 Palestinian and Israeli high-school students, technicians and decision makers including mayors, city council members, local authorities and other government officials from both sides to engage Palestinians and Israelis on the shared interest of environment protection through waste water treatment.

Parents Circle Family Forum (PCFF) (09/2011-09/2013, \$800,000): This organization is made up of approximately 600 families who engage in peace building efforts following the loss of their loved ones due to the conflict. The “Where Parallel Lines Meet” project aims at mitigating conflict among more than 1000 youth and hundreds of adults through the use of the personal narrative experience methodology. Women are particularly targeted by this program, as they will form a group that seeks to empower women’s role in conflict mitigation processes.

Education and Society Enterprises Ltd/Mifalot (02/2012-06/2015; \$900,000): This Israeli organization uses sports to bring together Israeli society for children and at-risk youth. “United Soccer for Peace” uses soccer

to teach marginalized youth values, leadership and conflict mitigation skills. The program aims to mitigate conflict by training 150 coaches and recruiting 6,000 on peace values.

Peres Center for Peace (09/2011-09/2013; \$1,094,708.38); Sub-awards: Organization for the Advancement of Women Sports in Kiryat Gat- \$83,459: The Peres Center for Peace is an Israeli organization that seeks to build relationship of trust and co-existence between Jewish Israelis and Arab-Israelis and Palestinians through sports, health and education initiatives. The Peres Center is implementing a project entitled “Twinned Peace Sport Schools.” The project seeks to enable Israeli and Palestinian girls aged 6-14 years to transcend the barriers of hostility and internalize the concepts of teamwork, fair play and mutual respect through healthy and enjoyable activities and cross-border encounters. The project seeks to maximize impact and sustain results by engaging participants’ families and communities, ensuring participation of women and girls, cultivating young leaders on both sides, and promoting long-term, cooperative relationships. The project aims to provide 320 children and youth from four underprivileged communities- two each from the West Bank and southern Israel-with athletic training, peace and inter-language education, and joint sports and social events. Training will also be provided to Israeli and Palestinian adult coaches and peace education facilitators.

2. What is the procedure for deciding which groups receive funding?

USAID Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grantees are selected through a full and open competition based on applications received in response to an Annual Program Statement (APS) that is available to the public on <http://www.grants.gov> under APS-294-12-000004. The objective of the APS is to make significant strides toward the overall goal of conflict mitigation, peace and reconciliation in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, and contribute to USAID’s developmental objectives in the region. Applications are reviewed by an inter-agency evaluation committee comprised of representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, USAID/WBG and USAID/Washington.

CMM is a Congressional-mandated program under the State Department, Foreign Operations and Relation Programs Appropriations bill that makes funds available on an annual basis “to support people to people reconciliation programs which bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious and political backgrounds from area of civil strike and war.” For the past several years \$10 million (out of the total amount appropriated for this program) has specifically been made available for such programs in the Middle East.

3. How are on-going and completed projects evaluated?

USAID programs managers regularly monitor, track and assess progress of CMM grantees toward achievement of slated program goals and objectives. USAID employs a variety of techniques in monitoring and evaluating ongoing and completed grants, including but not limited to regular site visits, pre- and post-activity surveys, collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, and where feasible and appropriate mid-term and final project evaluations. The results of monitoring and evaluation efforts are used to improve ongoing performance, strengthen future programming and to highlight successful approaches and share lessons-learned. The major results are reported in publicly-available annual reports. These reports can be on www.usaid.gov.

4. What steps are taken if a grantee engages in activities that are inconsistent with the values of human rights and democracy, or with U.S. foreign policy such as the rejection of actions that promote the delegitimization of Israel?

If at any time USAID determines that continuation of all or part of the funding for a program should be suspended or terminated because such assistance would not be in the national interest of the United States or would be in violation of an applicable law, then USAID may, following notice to the recipient, suspend or terminate the award in whole or in part and prohibit the recipient from incurring additional obligations chargeable to the award.

APPENDIX 3: USAID WEST BANK AND GAZA FACT SHEET, DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM/PEACE AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAM, DECEMBER 2011¹



USAID | WEST BANK/GAZA

FACT SHEET

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM
Peace and Reconciliation Program

PROJECT PROFILE



Eight young participants take part in USAID-supported sports activities in Ramallah implemented by Peace Players International.

CHALLENGES

- » Lack of opportunities for direct contact between Israelis and Palestinians.
- » Cultural differences, fear, mistrust and lack of free movement between Israel and Palestinian territories.
- » Journalistic reports which focus on contentious aspects of relationships between Israelis and Palestinians, reinforcing negative views and perpetuating conflict.

Program Overview

USAID's reconciliation programs are part of a worldwide effort to bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds from areas of conflict in order to address the root causes of tension and instability. Because these projects seek to break down barriers among parties through personal contact, they are often referred to as "people-to-people" programs. Since its inception in FY 2004, USAID/WBG has supported 36 Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants for Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza totaling \$24,734,013.

Goals

- » Promote peaceful coexistence among Israelis and Palestinians.
- » Improve mutual understanding and dialogue on issues of common concern.

Activities

CARE International(06/2009-06/2012; \$1,121,730): Working in 71 countries CARE is one of the leading U.S. relief and development agencies. The CARE project "An Eye to the Future: Building Skills and Attitudes that Promote Conflict Mitigation in Gaza" promotes a culture of nonviolence and enhances peace building. Directly benefitting 2,400 individuals, the project trains mentors in programming techniques to promote conflict mitigation, and hosts a child-centered before and after-school program focusing on skills in conflict mitigation, communications, and team-work.

Catholic Relief Services(CRS)(07/2009-01/2012; \$1,121,820): CRS is a U.S.-based non-governmental humanitarian organization working in nearly 100 countries. The project "Youth Voices for Community Action" promotes a culture of nonviolence by building up the skills of 1,350 Palestinian youth in nonviolent conflict mitigation through training, dialogue sessions, and joint meetings and programs that create a space for civil debate.

Just Vision, Inc. (09/2009-09/2012; \$1,121,500): Just Vision is a U.S.-based organization that emerged in response to the lack coverage of Palestinian and Israeli civilians working to end the conflict. "Multi-Media Education and Outreach Program in Israel and West Bank/Gaza" seeks to end the marginalization of nonviolent peace builders in their own communities and in mainstream media by supporting multi-media education and outreach programs.

Right to Play (09/2009-09/2012; \$1,121,902): Right to Play, a Canadian NGO, uses specially designed sport and play programs to improve health, develop life skills, and foster peace for children, youth, and communities in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the world. The USAID-funded project implements sports activities to promote holistic child development and youth engagement to promote peace building, and conflict prevention reconciliation in Palestinian communities.

American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat Al Salam (AFNSWAS)(06/2010-06/2013; \$1,000,000): AFNSWAS is a U.S. non-governmental organization that supports a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Israelis, and between Palestinians and Jews, through dialogue, cooperation, and education. The project "Creating Change Agents: Palestinian and Israeli Professionals in Dialogue and Action"

¹ Source: http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACT142.pdf. This fact sheet contains information on a grant to H.L. Education for Peace for 5/2010 – 11/2011. This grant does not appear in USAID's response (Appendix 2), while an almost identically-described project appears in the October 2012 Fact Sheet (Appendix 4) as running from 5/2010 – 12/2012. In email correspondence with NGO Monitor, U.S. officials clarified that this is the same project, and that "The H.L. Education for Peace project did not appear on the September response [Appendix 2] because the project was supposed to have ended by that time. However after our September response to you, USAID granted the organization an extension."



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WEST BANK/GAZA

FACT SHEET

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM
Peace and Reconciliation Program

PROJECT PROFILE



Israeli and Palestinian youth on the River Jordan, raising environmental awareness for a project supported by USAID and implemented by EcoPeace-Friends of the Earth Middle East.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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provides participants with the knowledge and tools to create institutional change through a series of dialogues around issues such as equality, security, and identity.

H.L. Education for Peace (05/2010-11/2011; \$528,594): H.L. Education for Peace is an Israeli organization which works to educate decision makers and key segments of the Israeli public on the Israeli/Palestinian peace process. "Influencing the Attitudes and Perceptions of Key Israeli Players" aims to mitigate identified causes of conflict by bringing a pragmatic Palestinian voice to the Israeli public at large through media and encounters between Palestinians and Israelis which improve mutual understanding and foster more favorable attitudes towards reconciliation.

Keshev (05/2010-05/2013; \$1,000,000): Keshev – the Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel – was established by a group of academics, lawyers, and civic activists to protect and advance democratic values in Israel. The project "Press for Peace: Improving the Israeli and Palestinian Media and Public Discourse" seeks to raise awareness among Israeli and Palestinian journalism professionals, journalism students, and public officials of how media coverage and editing practices affect peace and conflict.

Parents' Circle Family Forum(PCFF)(05/2010-05/2012; \$810,000): PCFF is an Israeli grassroots organization that works to promote long-term reconciliation between the Israelis and Palestinians through dialogue and better understanding of the other's personal narratives. The project "History through the Human Eye:the Israeli-Palestinian Narrative Project" engages Israeli and Palestinian participants in in-depth explorations of the individual and national narrative of the other side. President Obama recognized PCFF's work in his May 19, 2011 speech "A Moment of Opportunity" to the Muslim world.

Peace Players International (PPI) (07/2010-06/2013; \$877,493): Since 2001 PPI, a U.S.-based organization, has used the game of basketball to bridge divides, change perceptions, and develop young leaders. The project "Support for Peace Players International – Middle East: Cross-Border Activities" engages nearly 1,000 Palestinian and Israeli children per year to participate in Twinned Basketball Clubs.

Windows(05/2010-05/2013; \$750,000): Windows is an Israeli non-profit organization of Palestinian and Israeli citizens. The "Youth Media Program" uses media to involve Israeli and Palestinian participants more deeply in the experience of acquaintance with the "other," and to communicate with each other about the conflict.

Eco Peace-Friends of the Earth Middle East(FoEME)(09/2010-09/2013; \$223,710): FoEME is a leading Israeli environmental organization which brings together Palestinian, Israeli, and Jordanian environmentalists in an effort to protect shared environmental heritage, promote sustainable development, and promote conditions for peace in the Middle East. The project "Promoting Water and Environment Education in Jerusalem" focuses on educating youth about water resources in Jerusalem's Kidron Valley, which includes parts of East and West Jerusalem as well as the town of AbuDisin the West Bank.

APPENDIX 4: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION FACT SHEET, OCTOBER 2012¹



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



CMM Fact Sheet

Program Overview

Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants are part of a congressionally mandated effort to support people-to-people reconciliation activities that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of conflict to address the root causes of tension and instability. Since the program's inception in 2004, USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission and U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv have supported 55 Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) grants for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Below is a list of the current CMM awards that are being implemented by U.S., Israeli and Palestinian organizations.

Goals

- Promote peaceful coexistence among Israelis and Palestinians.
- Improve mutual understanding and dialogue on issues of common concern.

Programs managed by U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv

1. The Abraham Fund Initiatives (TAFI) (9/2009-9/2013; \$1,061,550): The Abraham Fund Initiatives is an Israeli organization that has been working since 1989 to promote coexistence and equality among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. The "Arab Society – Police Relations" grant covers three major areas: Policy Change – working with senior-level police, together with local officials and national government ministers, to encourage community policing by Israel's national police. Police Training and Practice – introducing democracy, human rights and knowledge of the Arab community into police training. The concept of policing within the community will be integrated into police policy. This will involve learning from models around the world about best practices that integrate policing and community involvement. Community Empowerment and Reconciliation – facilitated seminars with Arab community leadership, local representatives and police station staff, building local capacity to work with the police to solve community problems.

2. The Abraham Fund Initiatives (TAFI) (9/2010-9/2013; \$999,715): The Abraham Fund Initiatives is an Israeli organization that has been working since 1989 to promote coexistence and equality among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. The "Language as a Cultural Bridge" program organizes encounters between Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish fifth-and-sixth graders who participate in language and cultural classes. The Israeli-Arab students participate in Jewish cultural seminars and Hebrew language classes, and the Israeli-Jewish students participate in Arab cultural seminars and courses in spoken and literary Arabic. Both groups come together in ongoing encounters for the students, parents and teachers throughout their two-year participation. The Israeli Ministry of

¹ Source: <http://transition.usaid.gov/wbg/misc/102612CMMFactSheet.pdf>. In addition to grants managed by USAID, which are also discussed in the USAID response (Appendix 2) and the December 2011 Fact Sheet (Appendix 3), this fact sheet contains details on grants managed by the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. Two grants that appear in the USAID response, funding for Creative Associates (9/2011 – 9/2014) and The Maccabim Association (1/2012 – 9/2014) do not appear in this fact sheet. According to correspondence from U.S. officials, "both grants were terminated based on the organizations' request due to difficulties in implementation."

Education is a major partner in this program, having approved all course materials, and is accrediting enrichment hours to participating teachers. The Jewish Agency is also a sponsor of this initiative. Approximately 1,600 students participate in the activities funded under this grant.

3. Center for Educational Technology (CET) (9/2010-9/2013; \$559,000): CET is an Israeli NGO dedicated to the advancement of education. The “Shared Life: Learning Together for Mutual Understanding” program develops a bilingual website to build bridges among Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish high school students. The activity-rich website includes an eight-episode television series and classroom activities to reinforce the coexistence theme. Approximately 150 teachers throughout Israel receive training in using the website to teach civics education to approximately 2,000 Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish students. These students interact with each other and with their teachers through the website and participate in two face-to-face meetings during their participation in the program. The website is expected to reach a further 18,000 students through a robust advertising campaign. The Ministry of Education is a partner in this program and is providing enrichment hours for the participating teachers.

4. Merchavim (9/2010-9/2013; \$750,000): Merchavim is an Israeli organization that works to equip young Israelis of all backgrounds to build a shared future by learning about their fellow citizens and appreciating the diversity of Israeli society. The “Shared Citizenship on Sesame Street” program develops teacher training materials featuring characters on the Israeli version of Sesame Street (“Rehov Sumsum”) to teach the concept of shared citizenship. Approximately 1,200 Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish kindergarten teachers receive training in using these course materials, and 36,000 of their kindergarten students participate directly in related classroom activities. Video content relating to the program will also be showcased nationally on the leading Israeli children’s television channel (“Hop!”), which carries Rechov Sumsum. Sesame Street’s global content directors in New York vet all content developed for this program. The Israeli Ministry of Education is a major partner in this program, approved all course materials, and is accrediting enrichment hours to participating teachers.

5. Arab-Jewish Community Center (2/2012–7/2013, \$100,000): The Center, located in the heart of multicultural Jaffa, acts as a unique gathering point in Israel for Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The “Class Exchange” Program brings separate Jaffa youth communities together during the school year for artistic meetings and dialogue. Over 1,200 11-13 year olds are participating in the program led by experienced facilitators (ten class pairings of 60 Israeli-Jewish youth and 60 Israeli-Arab youth). There will be 14 professionally facilitated meetings during the first school year, and 45 during the second year; half the meetings will be at the Arab-Jewish Community Center and half held at the schools themselves.

6. Arava Institute for Environmental Studies (9/2010-6/2013; \$243,333): The Arava Institute is an Israeli organization that generates capacity for conciliation and cooperation in the Middle East, transcending political boundaries in order to achieve environmental change. The “Youth Environmental Education Peace Initiative” project uses environmental education as a vehicle for bringing together Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish students. During the first year of this project, 20 Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish graduates of the Arava Institute participate in a “train-the-trainers” course to learn how to facilitate cross-cultural encounters, which will take place during the second phase. In the second year of the program, these trained leaders implement an environmental education program in partnered Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish high schools, bringing together approximately 300 high school students to learn about their shared responsibility to protect the environment.

Programs managed by USAID West Bank/Gaza

1. American Friends of Neve Shalom Wahat Al Salam (AFNSWAS) (06/2010-06/2013; \$1,000,000): Subawards: School for Peace \$557,818 and Tawasol \$362,182: AFNSWAS is a U.S. NGO that

supports a genuine and durable peace between Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish citizens, and between Palestinians and Israelis, through dialogue, cooperation and education. AFNSWAS's project "Creating Change Agents: Palestinian and Israeli Professionals in Dialogue and Action" provides participants with the knowledge and tools to create institutional change through a series of dialogues around issues such as equality, security and identity.

2. Keshev (05/2010-05/2013; \$1,000,000): Sub-awards: International Peace Cooperation Center (IPCC), \$297,300: The Center for the Protection of Democracy in Israel (Keshev) was established by a group of academics, lawyers and civil society actors to protect and advance democratic values in Israel. Keshev's project "Press for Peace: Improving the Israeli and Palestinian Media and Public Discourse" seeks to raise awareness among Israeli and Palestinian journalism professionals and students of how media coverage and editing practices affect peace and conflict.

3. Peace Players International (PPI) (07/2011-06/2013; \$877,493): Since 2001 PPI, a U.S.-based organization, has used the game of basketball to bridge divides, change perceptions and develop young leaders. PPI's project "Support for Peace Players International – Middle East: Cross-Border Activities" engages nearly 1,000 Palestinian and Israeli children per year to participate in Twinned Basketball Clubs.

4. Windows (05/2010-05/2013; \$750,000): Windows is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization that strives for a future based on human rights, liberty, dignity, equality and democracy. The "Youth Media Program" uses media as a tool for Israeli and Palestinian participants to learn about each other and to communicate with each other about the conflict.

5. Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) (09/2010-09/2013; \$1,200,000): Sub-awards: Water and Environmental Development Organization, \$921,721: FoEME is an Israeli organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli environmentalists. FoEME's main objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage. The "Good Water Neighbors" and "Promoting Water Conservation and Environmental Education in Jerusalem" projects build on interdependence between Palestinians and Israelis resulting from their shared water resources with a focus on cross-border community relations. The goal is to advance community reconciliation within eleven Palestinian and nine Israeli communities by supporting community dialogue on water and environmental issues.

6. Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) (02/2012-01/2014; \$1,000,000): IPCRI is a leading Israeli organization in the field of peace education working with educators and youth. The project "Jewish and Arab Israeli Youth Defining Shared Citizenship Through Collaborative Community Programs" targets youth living together in mixed cities in Israel, and aims to redefine the nature and quality of their citizenship, promoting shared citizenship and responsibilities.

7. Hand in Hand (03/2012-02/2015; \$1,080,000): Hand in Hand, Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel, is an Israeli organization building peace, coexistence and equality through a network of integrated, bilingual schools for Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab children. The project "Shared Community/School Integration" seeks to establish eight Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab shared communities; five of these will be built around existing integrated schools, and an additional three in regions without existing schools.

8. Citizens' Accord Forum (09/2011-09/2014; \$612,414): The Citizens' Accord Forum between Jews and Arabs in Israel (CAF) is an Israeli organization established with the vision of building a just and equal relationship of accord and stability among Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. The project "Youth Parliaments of the Mixed Towns of Israel" aims to create youth parliaments in Israeli cities with large Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish populations to encourage moderated discussions, dialogue and outreach.

9. Givat Haviva (9/2011-9/2013; \$874,144): Sub-award: Keshev- \$403,873: The Givat Haviva Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding, cooperation and equality between divided groups in Israel as the foundation for building a shared future and shared society. The project "Communicating Peace" aims to improve critical media consumption skills of professionals, educators and youth. The program approach focuses on media monitoring, curriculum development, training on critical media and in-depth dialogue between Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish youth.

10. Economic Cooperation Foundation (ECF) (1/2012 – 1/2014; \$1,000,000): ECF is an Israeli organization that aims to maintain and support Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli cooperation in the political, economic and civil society spheres. The "Promoting Neighborly Relations" program aims to promote economic cooperation and policy changes in tourism, trade and infrastructure planning in the northern Palestinian and Israeli regions of Jenin, Gilboa and Haifa. The program will benefit the thousands of citizens living in this northern region by widening economic opportunities for tourism entrepreneurs, farmers and small industrialists.

11. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) (09/2011-12/2013; \$1,000,000): Sub-awards: Reut Sadaka-\$600,876: The "Gemini" project implemented by CRS in partnership with Sadaka Reut, a youth partnership organization, focuses on bringing together Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish youth aged 18 to 25 for an extended period of dialogue, skill-building, mentoring and activism.

12. The Adam Institute for Democracy and Peace (9/2011- 9/2014; \$1,193,002): Sub-award: Center for Democracy and Community Development - \$407,148: The Adam Institute, an Israeli NGO, works with civil society organizations to enhance their commitment to non-violence and build their capacities to better serve their constituencies. The "Return to the Public Sphere" project conducts a series of workshops for a total of 200 young Israeli and Palestinian civil society leaders aged 21 to 35 to build capacity for effective, democratic and peace-oriented leadership on both sides.

13. Ben-Gurion University (9/2011-9/2014; \$760,160): Sub-award: Center for Applied Research in Education - \$120,750: Ben-Gurion University has a program that works with educators in Israel and the West Bank dealing with victims of political violence. The "Human Service Professionals and Educators in Israel and Palestine: Building Knowledge and Peace" project aims to identify, implement and evaluate the most promising, culturally appropriate models of intervention to be used with children, families and communities coping with trauma and bereavement associated with the ongoing conflict. The project will form and train a cadre of 15 Israeli-Jewish, 5 Israeli-Arab, and 20 Palestinian human service providers, primarily mental health practitioners and educators who specialize in conflict mitigation. The 40 participants will lead four workshops for 200 Israeli and Palestinian professionals.

14. Near East Foundation (NEF) (9/2011-9/2014; \$1,209,502): NEF is a U.S. organization based in Nablus working to build relationships and cooperation amongst Israeli and Palestinian olive producers in six clusters of villages in Israel and the West Bank. The "Olive Oil without Borders" project will provide economic and social impact through increased income profitability and cross-border trade, higher levels of trust, and increased cooperation to stimulate cross-border economic cooperation.

15. Sikkuy: The Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality (9/2011-12/2014; \$1,061,275): Sikkuy is an Israeli NGO engaging Israeli-Jewish and Israeli-Arab local officials and civil society leaders to produce joint frameworks for increased economic opportunity. The "Equality Zones: Jewish-Arab Regional Forums for Cooperation" project promotes inclusion of Arab municipalities in statutory government frameworks, develops small business opportunities, and increases employment for Arab women.

16. Mercy Corps: (9/2011-3/2013; \$1,190,000): Sub-award: Peres Center for Peace - \$40,000: Mercy Corps is a U.S organization that has implemented more than 95 peace-building programs in over 30 countries. This project brings Palestinian and Israeli youth and companies together around a shared interest in information and communication technology (ICT). The "Impact through Technology" project aims to promote peace activism through the enhanced use of social media and economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians in the ICT sector. Palestinian youth will be trained in digital literacy, critical thinking, problem solving and collaborative work methods through Intel Learn training courses.

17. The State University of New York (SUNY) New Paltz Disaster Institute for Disaster Mental Health: (1/2012-1/2013; \$96,917): The Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz facilitates partnerships between groups active in disaster preparedness, response and recovery by organizing and hosting trainings, conferences and multi-agency meetings. The "Families First: A Palestinian-Israeli People to People Approach to Assist Children and Caregivers as a Means of Conflict Mitigation And Reconciliation" program engages Palestinian and Israeli health and social service professionals to prevent long-term conflict by addressing short-term mental health needs of children and families. Fifteen mental health and social providers from the West Bank, Gaza and Israel as well as six trauma experts from the United States will work to develop psycho-educational materials to educate parents about the common impact of trauma and how they can assist their children in coping with exposure to conflict in a manner that minimizes psychological harm.

18. The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies – AIES (05/2012-04/2015; \$561,438): Sub-awards: House of Water and Environment - \$159,525: The Arava Institute is an Israeli organization that generates capacity for conciliation and cooperation in the Middle East, transcending political boundaries in order to achieve environmental change. The project "Mitigating Trans-boundary Waste-Water Conflicts" aims to help reduce and prevent further wastewater conflicts and disputes between Israel and the West Bank. AIES works with Palestinian and Israeli master level students, 30 Palestinian and Israeli high-school students, technicians and decision makers including mayors, city council members, local authorities and other government officials from both sides to engage Palestinians and Israelis on the shared interest of environmental protection through wastewater treatment.

19. Parents Circle Family Forum (PCFF) (09/2011-09/2013; \$800,000): PCFF is an organization made up of approximately 600 families who engage in peace-building efforts following the loss of their loved ones due to the conflict. The "Where Parallel Lines Meet" project aims at mitigating conflict among more than 1,000 youth and hundreds of adults through the use of the personal narrative experience methodology. The program targets women in particular to strengthen their role in conflict mitigation processes.

20. Education and Society Enterprises Ltd/Mifalot (02/2012-06/2015; \$900,000): Mifalot is an Israeli organization that uses sports to bring together Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Jewish children and at-risk youth. "United Soccer for Peace" uses soccer to teach marginalized youth values, leadership and conflict mitigation skills.

21. H.L. Education for Peace (05/2010-12/2012; \$553,594): H.L. Education for Peace is an Israeli organization that works to educate decision makers and key segments of the Israeli public on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The "Advancing Public Support for a Negotiated Agreement" program aims to mitigate identified causes of conflict by highlighting pragmatic voices to the Israeli public at large through media and encounters between Palestinians and Israelis that improve mutual understanding and foster more favorable attitudes towards reconciliation.

22. Kids Creating Peace (06/2012-05/2013; \$92,998): Kids Creating Peace is an Israeli organization that aims to educate diverse children and youth in Israel and the West Bank, providing them with tools and knowledge on how to resolve conflicts and become responsible members of their

community. The “Youth Creating Peace” program aims at mitigating conflict among 25 Israeli youth and 25 Palestinian youth through people-to-people activities that will expose them to each other’s experience and narratives. The youth will participate in a joint 4-day camp, 12 separate and joint activities and will implement civic involvement projects reaching at least 200 additional family members.

23. Peres Center for Peace (09/2011-09/2013; \$1,094,708); Sub-awards: Organization for the Advancement of Women Sports in Kiryat Gat- \$83,459: The Peres Center for Peace is an Israeli organization that seeks to build relationships of trust and co-existence between Israelis, both Jewish and Arab, and Palestinians through sports, health and education initiatives. The Peres Center is implementing a project entitled “Twinned Peace Sport Schools.” The project seeks to enable Israeli and Palestinian girls aged 6 to 14 to transcend the barriers of hostility and internalize the concepts of teamwork, fair play and mutual respect through healthy and enjoyable activities and cross-border encounters. The project seeks to maximize impact and sustain results by engaging participants’ families and communities, ensuring participation of women and girls, cultivating young leaders on both sides, and promoting long-term, cooperative relationships. The project aims to provide 320 children and youth from four underprivileged communities from the West Bank and southern Israel, with athletic training, peace and inter-language education, and joint sports and social events. Training will also be provided to Israeli and Palestinian adult coaches and peace education facilitators.

24. Seeds of Peace (8/2012-2/2015; \$1,150,966): Seeds of Peace is a U.S. organization that aims to empower young people from regions of conflict with the leadership skills and interpersonal networks necessary to advance reconciliation and coexistence. The “On Common Ground” project is designed to provide Palestinian and Israeli youth between the ages of 14 and 32, as well as local educators, with experiences, opportunities, skill sets and resources needed to find common ground on the core issues within and between their societies that are perpetuating conflict and preventing peace. “On Common Ground” has three primary components: A) Community and Cross Border Dialogues; B) Building Capacities for Peace; C) Needed Leaders. Activities focus on the unique role women play in peace-building, capacity building workshops for educators, summer camps for youth in the West Bank and Gaza, and a set of resources for teachers.

APPENDIX 5: RESPONSES FROM UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE, NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY, AND MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

Response from USIP, January 4, 2012

Thank you for your email inquiry. In the period 2009-2011, the Institute made grants to these Israeli organizations (no grants went to Palestinian organizations):

-- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC—Israel) \$100,000 for a cooperative Palestinian-Israeli project to train community-based professionals in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), a treatment proven effective in reducing the physical and emotional symptoms of trauma. Three courses (two Palestinian, one Israeli) will be conducted, as well as a “train the trainers” activity for Palestinian professionals, which will expand the capacity to address the needs of youth at risk. Joint meetings of the Palestinian and Israeli participants will also be conducted.

-- Hebrew University of Jerusalem: \$75,000 for a study, to be undertaken by a Jewish-Palestinian research team, to examine and analyze 13 community-engaged (“service learning”) courses in universities across Israel—courses that incorporate academic learning with social activism in the community. Through interviews, in-course observation, surveys, and focus groups, the study will assess the impact of the courses on the attitudes and behaviors of participants and explore the utility of the community engaged courses as a new form of intergroup dialogue.

-- Sipurei Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Stories): \$115,000. Based on an innovative and successful storytelling performance program and photo exhibit in East and West Jerusalem, the initiative will broaden its outreach by producing a film that presents the people of Jerusalem and their personal stories. Combining performance, documentary interviews, and portrait photography, the film will be produced in Arabic, Hebrew, and English. The project will also develop and publish a companion facilitation manual, presenting ways to create programs accompanying the film and a lessons learned storytelling guide for conflict resolution practitioners.

-- Parents Circle – Family Forum: \$120,000. This project builds on the organization’s experience using parallel narratives in which Israelis and Palestinians members engage in in-depth exploration of the individual and national narrative of the other. The project would identify and film the most compelling parallel narrative experiences of Israeli and Palestinian pairs after losing a loved one and trace their choice of reconciliation, rather than revenge. The film will follow them in their daily lives and illustrate how their shared experiences intertwine.

-- Abraham Fund Initiatives: \$120,000 for an initiative that will work to enhance police training and practice by developing curricular and training materials and conducting training on methods of policing that prevent conflict and build trust in divided societies. The project will develop models of participation and cooperation with Arab society by including Arabs in police training and developing frameworks for dialogue and partnership. It will also conduct research and educational outreach through publications and dissemination activities, expanding knowledge about policing in divided societies.

Information about these and all USIP grantees is available on the Institute’s searchable database of grants found on USIP’s website. (See: <http://applications.usip.org/grants/>) Each entry includes the name of the organization, project director, grant amount, fiscal year, start and end date for the grant, and a brief description of the background, substance and expected outcomes of the funded project.

As for future grants, USIP on October 1, 2011, received several hundred applications from around the world for its Annual Grant Competition. Applications are subjected to a thorough six-month peer review process that is also described on the Grant Program page of USIP’s website. (See: <http://www.usip.org/>)

grants-fellowships/annual-grant-competition) Since we are in the middle of that vetting process and the competition is extremely stiff, we do not know which Israeli or Palestinian projects, if any, will receive USIP grants. Final decisions on the applications will be made in late March. In recent years, because of limited funding, USIP has been able to fund only about 20 or so projects from the hundreds of proposals submitted for consideration.

On the monitoring of USIP grants, Institute-funded projects are monitored closely by USIP staff. We apply strict reporting requirements, including the submission of detailed reports every 5-6 months. Beyond the initial (partial) disbursement, subsequent payout of grant funds is contingent upon USIP's approval of narrative and financial reports. As for completed projects, we normally conduct an evaluation of a project under two conditions:

- 1) when the director of a project previously funded by USIP submits a new application for funding; and
- 2) when the dollar amount exceeds our normal funding range. The current funding range for USIP grants through the Annual Grant Competition is \$50,000 to \$120,000.

I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if you need additional information. I look forward to seeing the report when it is available.

Sincerely,
Steve Riskin

Steven M. Riskin
Special Assistant to the President for Grants
United States Institute of Peace

Response from NED, February 21, 2012

I am writing in response to your February 1 inquiry regarding NED funding for Israeli and Palestinian NGOs.

You can find a full listing of groups funded by NED in the West Bank/Gaza NED, along with brief descriptions of each project and the award amount, for 2009 [here](#) and 2010 [here](#). The grants for 2011 are not yet available on our website – but I am attaching a word document with a listing of those grants, which have already been published in our printed annual report (which should be available online in the coming weeks).

I also attach a list of projects approved at our January 2012 Board meeting. The NED Board meets on a quarterly basis to consider grant applications. Future meetings are scheduled for March, June and September, and future grants could be considered at any of those meetings.

Information about our grant application process can also be found on our website [here](#). NED's proposal guidelines outline the Endowment's requirements of grantees to plan for evaluation of their activities on a quarterly basis and to assess the impact of their work when and if applying for a subsequent grant renewal.

In response to your questions about specific NED grantees as outlined in #4 of your inquiry, NED is a bipartisan American institution whose mission is to help build peaceful civil societies. Accordingly, it does not take positions on matters of public policy or controversy. We do not support groups that incite hatred or violence. That said, we would not withdraw support for a group simply because its views on issues, or the language its members use to describe events, may be controversial or even in some respects objectionable. Grantees are judged not on their rhetoric but rather on their ability to implement effective democracy-building projects.

With best regards,

Jane Riley Jacobsen

Director, Public Affairs

National Endowment for Democracy

Correspondence with Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)

- 1. Initial inquiry from NGO Monitor on MEPI, December 19, 2011**
- 2. Identical responses from MEPI Jerusalem and MEPI Tel Aviv, December 27-28, 2011**
- 3. Re-submission of questions by NGO Monitor, January 3, 2012 (no response)**
- 4. Follow-up letter by NGO Monitor, January 23, 2012 (no response)**

1. Initial inquiry from NGO Monitor on MEPI, December 19, 2011

Ms. Manal Haddad
Program Specialist
Middle East Partnership Initiative
Public Affairs Office
Embassy of the United States in Tel Aviv

Re: MEPI Funding for Israeli and Palestinian NGOs

Dear Ms. Haddad,

As part of NGO Monitor's research into funding for political advocacy non-governmental organizations (NGOs), we are preparing a report on United States support for NGOs active in Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

We would appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. Which Israeli and Palestinian NGOs were funded by MEPI in 2009-11?
 - (a) What were the amounts provided to each NGO recipient?
 - (b) For which projects were the funds earmarked?
 - (c) Is this information publicly available? If so, how can it be retrieved?
2. What is the procedure for deciding which groups receive funding? How are on-going and completed projects evaluated?
3. Independent research shows that MEPI funded the International Republican Institute (IRI)'s West Bank/Gaza program in 2010.
 - (a) Does MEPI continue to fund IRI?
 - (b) Did past funding go to IRI partners such as Miftah?
 - (c) Is MEPI aware of Miftah's use of hate speech in its publications, such as allegations of "the slaughter of Palestinian children" and "massacre," in order to demonize Israel?

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to continued dialogue with MEPI on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Naftali Balanson, , Managing Editor, NGO Monitor

2. Identical responses from MEPI Jerusalem and MEPI Tel Aviv, December 27-28, 2011

a. MEPI Jerusalem

Dear Naftali Balanson,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding MEPI programs in the West Bank and Gaza. Information on MEPI programming is available at the following two websites: <http://mepi.state.gov/about-faq.html> and www.usaspending.gov.

Regards,
MEPI Jerusalem

b. MEPI Office, US Embassy Tel Aviv

Dear Naftali Balanson,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding MEPI programs in Israel. Information on MEPI programming is available at the following two websites: <http://mepi.state.gov/about-faq.html> and www.usaspending.gov.

Regards,

All Best,

MEPI Office, US Embassy Tel Aviv

3. Re-submission of questions by NGO Monitor, January 3, 2012 (no response)

Thank you for your response to our letter. However, the links provided in your email do not contain information that addresses our questions.

Our original questions were:

1. Which Israeli and Palestinian NGOs were funded by MEPI in 2009-11?
 - (a) What were the amounts provided to each NGO recipient?
 - (b) For which projects were the funds earmarked?
 - (c) Is this information publicly available? If so, how can it be retrieved?
2. What is the procedure for deciding which groups receive funding? How are on-going and completed projects evaluated?
3. Independent research shows that MEPI funded the International Republican Institute (IRI)'s West Bank/Gaza program in 2010.
 - (a) Does MEPI continue to fund IRI?
 - (b) Did past funding go to IRI partners such as Miftah?
 - (c) Is MEPI aware of Miftah's use of hate speech in its publications, such as allegations of "the slaughter of Palestinian children" and "massacre," in order to demonize Israel?

If this information is available online, please direct us to the exact pages. If it is not, we would appreciate if you could direct us to the appropriate person in charge of these grants.

We appreciate your help and look forward to continued dialogue with you on these important issues. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these topics in person.

Thank you for your attention to these questions.

Sincerely,

Naftali Balanson, Managing Editor , NGO Monitor

4. Follow-up letter by NGO Monitor, January 23, 2012 (no response)

Mr. Frank Finver
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem

January 23, 2012

MEPI Funding for Israeli and Palestinian NGOs

Dear Mr. Finver,

As part of NGO Monitor's research into funding for political advocacy non-governmental organizations (NGOs), we are preparing a report on United States support for NGOs active in Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

On December 19, 2011, we sent an e-mail to MEPIJerusalem@state.gov asking for information regarding MEPI's funding of Israeli and Palestinian NGOs. The MEPI office responded to our inquiry on December 27, 2011; however, the links provided did not contain the information we requested. Our follow-up letter of January 3, 2012 remains, to date, unanswered.

Our original questions were as follows:

1. Which Israeli and Palestinian NGOs were funded by MEPI in 2009-11?
 - (a) What were the amounts provided to each NGO recipient?
 - (b) For which projects were the funds earmarked?
 - (c) Is this information publicly available? If so, how can it be retrieved?
2. What is the procedure for deciding which groups receive funding? How are on-going and completed projects evaluated?
3. Independent research shows that MEPI funded the International Republican Institute (IRI)'s West Bank/Gaza program in 2010.
 - (a) Does MEPI continue to fund IRI?
 - (b) Did past funding go to IRI partners such as Miftah?
 - (c) Is MEPI aware of Miftah's use of hate speech in its publications, such as allegations of "the slaughter of Palestinian children" and "massacre," in order to demonize Israel?

If this information is available online, please direct us to these pages. If it is not, we would appreciate if you could direct us to the appropriate person in charge of these grants.

We appreciate your help and look forward to continued dialogue with you on these important issues. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these topics in person.

Sincerely,

Naftali Balanson, Managing Editor, NGO Monitor

APPENDIX 6: NGO MONITOR'S "PARENTS CIRCLE FAMILIES FORUM (PCFF): FACT SHEET" AND USAID RESPONSE

- The Parents Circle Families Forum (PCFF) presents itself as an organization “Promot[ing] reconciliation as an alternative to hatred and revenge.” For some Israelis, however, PCFF is a controversial organization that promotes the Palestinian narrative of Israeli aggression and Palestinian victimhood, as well as an immoral equivalence between Palestinian terrorists and victims of terror attacks. Some Israeli relatives of terror victims are troubled by PCFF’s exclusion of those who are unwilling to subscribe to this narrative.
- The documentary film “Encounter Point” features Robi Damelin, an Israeli who lost her son, and Ali Abu Awwad, a Palestinian who lost his brother; both are leading personalities in PCFF. As part of its public presentations, PCFF has screened the film, and the trailer can be found on PCFF’s website (third video in the gallery).¹ Although PCFF claims that the film promotes dialogue and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, it unmistakably blames Israel as solely responsible for the suffering of both peoples. For example, when Damelin is asked how she felt after the Palestinian sniper who killed her son became a folk hero in the West Bank, she responds, “I’m not focusing on this, what I’m focusing on is: Why was David in the occupied territories? Why was David guarding settlers who said their safety was more important than David’s life?” (Encounter Point DVD 45:00- 46:00). When one individual in the film claims life for the Palestinians in Israel is better than it is in many Arab countries, Damelin, says, “it sounds like South Africa [Apartheid] to me” (Encounter Point DVD 48:33). In another interview on Parents Circle’s “Framework for Reconciliation,” Damelin insists on the need to “bring Israel to its senses.”²
- PCFF draws an immoral equivalence between terror victims and terrorists. For example, presentations to Israeli public school students, as part of PCFF’s flagship program “Dialogue Encounters,” included relatives of Palestinian terrorists who had been killed, together with bereaved families of Israelis and Palestinians. Following complaints from parents, the Israeli Ministry of Education, which is responsible for authorizing extracurricular programming, declared that relatives of terrorists could no longer participate.³ Education Minister Gidon Saar noted, “The education system supports messages of peace, conciliation and dialogue, and promotes pluralistic discourse, but there is no room for comparison between terror victims and terrorists.”
- In another one of these meetings, Ron Kehrmann, whose daughter was killed in a terrorist attack in Haifa in 2003, was excluded from a presentation at his daughter’s school. (Kehrmann was eventually allowed to attend following the intervention of Minister of Education Saar.)⁴
- An article in Ha’aretz (“Peace activists are sick of talking about soccer,” April 25, 2012) reported on a fundamental divide between the willingness of Israelis and Palestinians to participate in Parents Circle events. According to the article, “a gala event of the Bereaved Families Forum was relocated from the Palestinian town of Beit Sahour to metropolitan Israel, after 220 out of 300 Palestinian participants pulled out.” Similarly, monthly dialogue sessions in Beit Jala “have become rare.”⁵
- The Ha’aretz article also discussed the “Crack in the Wall” project, funded by the European Union, which was significantly changed due to “skepticism and disinterestedness on the Palestinian side.”⁶ Originally, the project was intended to “facilitate[] direct communication between Palestinians and

1 <http://www.theparentscircle.com/VideoGalery.aspx>

2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpDqFmHi1C8>

3 <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4166475,00.html>

4 <http://www.mynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-4185299,00.html>

5 <http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/peace-activists-are-sick-of-talking-about-soccer-1.426396>

6 <http://www.crackinthewall.org/Pages/>

Israelis,” with “discussions about entertainment, hobbies, day-to-day experiences and others.” However, the final product was limited to political issues.

USAID RESPONSES TO NGO MONITOR’S MAY 17 “PARENTS CIRCLE FAMILIES FORUM (PCFF): FACT SHEET”

1) What funding was provided to PCFF by USAID in 2009-2012?

During this time PCFF received two, two-year grants under the Conflict Management and Mitigation Program for \$1.61 million dollars.

(a) For which projects were the funds earmarked?

On May 7, 2010, USAID/WBG awarded a two-year, \$810,000 grant entitled “History through the Human Eye Project” to promote long-term reconciliation and better understanding of the other’s personal narratives between Israelis and Palestinians. The program supports people-to-people activities that promote peace and reconciliation among Israeli and Palestinian participants. The project includes eleven “Narrative Working Groups”, each made up of 20-40 Israeli and Palestinian participants. Group participants engage in trust-building sessions, historical workshops and visits to significant places in each other’s histories. Israeli and Palestinian participants work in pairs to explore one-another’s personal narratives, some of which are compiled into a book and showcased in a documentary for dissemination to wider audiences. These will continue to be used as a tool to create empathy and understanding among target audiences.

In September 2011, USAID awarded a two-year \$800,000 grant to Parents Circle Family Forum to PCFF to help mitigate conflict among more than 1,000 youth and young adults and among hundreds of adults including women. The objective is for participants to experience a personal change in their perceptions through the use of the personal narrative experience (PNE) methodology. The program is also expected to have a significant ripple effect as the individual beneficiaries carry a message of the possibility of reconciliation and the information about differing narratives they acquired to others, reaching more than an estimated 6,000 new people. The 6,000 figure is an estimate based on the assumption that every direct participant in the workshops will want to share their experience with others, both within and outside the circle of participants. The periphery beyond the active participants is difficult to quantify; however, USAID and PCFF estimate that each participant will talk to at least 5-10 people about the experience and the message of the possibility of reconciliation. As part of the agreement between PCFF and USAID, PCFF agreed that it will check the scope of this “ripple effect” by asking participants, several months after completion of the program, with how many people they spoke about their experience in the workshop. In accordance with the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, USAID seeks to identify opportunities to ensure that women around the World play an equal role in promoting peace and achieving just and enduring security. This program was selected for funding, in part, because of the emphasis it places on empowering women and increasing their role in conflict mitigation processes. This is also consistent with the UN Security Council resolution 1325, which reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

PCFF used a variety of methods to recruit participants for the program. In addition to advertising to their established network, they distributed public advertisements; met with NGOs to discuss the program and solicit potential candidates from them; and identified and invited community leaders, such as educators, healthcare professionals, artists, and respected elders from selected locations.

Finishing at the end of June 2012, the programs have had a measurable impact. A mid-term evaluation conducted in June 2011 shows that 67% of the participants reported that participation in the program

improved their level of trust and empathy for the other side, while 68% of the participants reported that their participation in the program increased their levels of knowledge and acknowledgment of the other narrative. In addition, the program increased the willingness to be more active in activities supporting peace building among 87% of participants, increased the support for peace among 79% of the participants, and intensified the belief in the possibility of reconciliation among 86% of the participants.

Following the completion of the 11 narrative working groups, 65% of participants shifted their attitudes toward a more peace supportive approach, while 90% of the participants of the sessions reported they are willing to become more active in peace building activities. Moreover, 70% of the participants indicated that they felt the parallel narrative experience improved their level of trust and empathy for the other side.

(b) Is this information publicly available? If so, how can we retrieve it?

Yes, the information about USAID funded conflict mitigation programs is available on our website (<http://transition.usaid.gov/wbg/misc/DGO/2011%20DGO.CMM%20factsheet.pdf>) and this information is updated frequently. We recognize that it is not always easy to find information on the USAID website, and we will continue to work to make this information as accessible as possible to the general public. Also in an effort to be responsive to NGO Monitor's request to make this information more easily accessible to the public, we have added information to the U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv's website on the CMM programs.

2) What is the procedure for deciding which groups receive funding? How are ongoing and completed projects evaluated? Are the evaluations made public?

USAID implements Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) programs worldwide as part of a Congressionally-mandated effort to support people-to-people reconciliation programs that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds from areas of conflict in order to address the root causes of tension and instability. USAID/West Bank and Gaza (USAID/WBG) has been managing CMM grants since 2004. Every year, USAID establishes an inter-agency evaluation committee, comprised of both USAID and State Department officials from the US Embassy and US Consulate General and USAID/Washington. The committee evaluates and scores each application individually based on the applicants' responsiveness to the criteria set forth in the Annual Program Statement (a form of a request for applications. The 2012 APS is available to the public on <http://www.grants.gov>) and in consideration of other factors, such as how well the proposed program furthers U.S. foreign policy objectives in the region.

USAID program managers regularly monitor, track and assess progress of CMM grantees toward achievement of stated program goals and objectives. USAID employs a variety of techniques in monitoring and evaluating ongoing and completed grants, including but not limited to regular site visits, pre- and post- activity surveys, collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, and where feasible and appropriate mid-term and final project evaluations. The results of monitoring and evaluation efforts are used to improve ongoing performance, strengthen future programming and to highlight successful approaches and share lessons-learned. The major results are reported in publicly-available annual reports.

These reports can be found on www.usaid.gov. If evaluations are conducted, they are made public by the USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse (<http://dec.usaid.gov/index.cfm>), where searches for documents can be conducted.

3) Are you aware that several of PCFF projects (notably "A crack in the Wall") have not been implemented as intended (see attached report)? What impact will that have on future requests for funding?

This project was not funded by USAID. Past experience is always a factor to consider when analyzing requests for future funding.

4) Will PCFF's narrative bias and equivalence between terror victims and terrorists impact future requests for funding?

We will review carefully the issues you raise. As we note, past experiences, whether or not involving USAID funding, will be a factor to consider when analyzing requests for future funding.

Translations into English by NGO Monitor

The editor describes the term “Naqba” as “a word in Arabic meaning ‘Disaster’ or ‘Catastrophe,’ referring to the destruction, expulsion, looting, and the rape and massacre of the Palestinian inhabitants of the land in 1948...” This definition is accompanied by a graphic from Zochrot, an Israeli political NGO that promotes a Palestinian “right of return.”

2. Page 13

“They think they have the right to this land because of the suffering they experienced in the Holocaust. I want to say that we, the Palestinians, have a right to the land, and they are the ones who came here, expelled us, and occupied us... what happen in the Naqba and in the Holocaust is a violation of human rights... In my opinion, history is repeating itself, even if there are small differences.”

[illegible]

“When I saw the movie about the Holocaust, I saw how cruel and insensitive the Nazi army was towards the Jews. I felt compassion for them, although the Jews treat us like the Germans treated them.”



مروة حطيرة
مروة حطيرة

مستمرون في الحديث...
ממשיכים לדבר...

عندما شاهدت الفيلم عن المحرقة أيقنت كم كان الجيش النازي قاسياً
 وعديم الخاعر تجاه اليهود. شعرت بالرأفة [واسم بالرغم من أن اليهود
 يتصرفون معنا ويمسكونا اليوم كما عاملهم النازيون من قبل. أما فيلم
 النكبة فيصعدت عن أناس طردوا من بيوتهم ولا زالوا يحتفظون بالمخاتيج
 على أمل العودة. أزعجني في الفيلم أنه لم يسل صورة واضحة وكاملة عما
 حدث في النكبة وكيف حدث ما حدث بالفيلم. القصص المؤثرة التي
 عرضت في فيلم النكبة والتي رواها بعض الأشخاص الذين يرددون أن
 يرجعوا إلى بيوتهم ووطنهم جعلتني أفسر كم كان مؤلماً وتراجيدياً كل
 ما حدث.

כשאני צופה את הסרט על השואה, רואני כמה אכזרי וחסר רחמים
 היה הצבא הנאצי כלפי היהודים. הרגשתי רחמים כלפיהם לשוחות
 שנידחו מבייתם ואילו היום כמו שהתרגלנו הניחוס אליהם.
 הסרט על הנכבה דיכר על אנשים שעושה מסכותם תמיד
 את המסכות כמקצוע לחזור. הכיני לי, שחשתי לא טפן נפשו
 בחזרה ואילצה על ידך נפשו קרה בטובה. המיכונים המרגשים כשרם,
 שחשבו עד כמה היושים רבים לחזור לבניהם ואחרים. טבע לי
 הרגשה כמה סורי זה היה.

APPENDIX 9: EXAMPLES OF U.S.-FUNDED NGOS INCONSISTENT WITH U.S. POLICY ON DELEGITIMIZATION

In a number of public appearances, President Barak Obama has rejected the “delegitimization of Israel.” At the AIPAC Policy Conference (May 4, 2012), he said,

And just as we’ve been there with our security assistance, we’ve been there through our diplomacy. When the Goldstone report unfairly singled out Israel for criticism, we challenged it. When Israel was isolated in the aftermath of the flotilla incident, we supported them. When the Durban conference was commemorated, we boycotted it, and we will always reject the notion that Zionism is racism. When one-sided resolutions are brought up at the Human Rights Council, we oppose them. (emphasis added)

In a speech at the S. Daniel Abraham Center Conference (Netanya) (April 16, 2012), U.S. Ambassador Daniel B. Shapiro expanded on this policy: “the Obama Administration has consistently and forcefully opposed unbalanced and biased actions against Israel across the UN system...The U.S. insisted on Israel’s right to defend itself against rocket and terror attacks on its citizens and maintained that Israel’s democratic institutions could credibly investigate any possible abuses” (emphasis added).

However, the U.S. government continues to fund Palestinian NGOs that are active in campaigns to delegitimize Israel, including BDS (boycotts, divestment, and sanctions) and inflammatory submissions to the UN Human Rights Council.

For instance, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) funds Al-Dameer, Holy Land Trust, Miftah, Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO), Women’s Affairs Technical Committee (WATC), and Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP). As seen below, these NGOs contribute to delegitimization campaigns through: participation in the Durban Conference (2001) and support for the Durban Review Conference (2009), lobbying for one-sided resolutions in UN frameworks, opposing Israel’s legitimate responses to rocket attacks from Gaza, promoting the Goldstone Report, and attempting to isolate Israel for the flotilla incident.

It is also noteworthy that, in response to President Obama’s AIPAC speech, Miftah’s founder and Chair of the Executive Committee Hanan Ashrawi stated, “We could not believe that an American president is out there proving that he is good for Israel.”¹ She also accused the United States of continuing “to subvert all efforts at achieving a just peace, and presents itself as complicit in Israel’s persistent violations of international law and Palestinian rights.”²

Durban Conference (2001) and Durban Review Conference (2009) **Miftah**

- Participated in the virulent NGO Forum at the 2001 UN Durban Conference, including a speech by Hanan Ashrawi (Miftah’s founder and Chair of the Executive Committee) that accused Israel of “the most intricate and pervasive expression of persistent colonialism, apartheid, racism, and victimization” and claimed that “Rarely has the human mind devised such varied, diverse, and comprehensive means of wholesale brutalization and persecution.”³
- “Durban II: Politicizing Racism” (Ramzy Baroud, March 16, 2009, originally in The Palestine Chronicle): “What indeed took place at the [2001 Durban] conference was democracy in its best manifestations ...the illegal and violent mass oppression of Palestinians, as practiced openly by the Israeli state continue unabated – and is rather defended and justified by the United States and other European powers - highlights the historical legacy championed by former colonial powers throughout

1 <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2012/Mar-06/165748-stop-shielding-israel-palestinians-tell-obama.ashx#axzz1p5E2yM58>

2 <http://english.wafa.ps/index.php?action=detail&id=19206>

3 <http://66.241.209.237/Display.cfm?DocId=1825&CategoryId=1>

the so-called third world for so many years.”⁴

Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)

- Played a major role in producing many of the preparatory documents for the 2001 Durban Conference, including the document calling for embargoes on Israel.

Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC)

- “Editorial: A Futile Withdrawal” (September 6, 2001): “Israel and the U.S.A have withdrawn from one of the most important world conferences on racism, held in Durban, South Africa. They withdrew to cover up their crimes committed against the Palestinian nation -- the massacres, the racist policy of discrimination, and the inhumane treatment of Palestinian people -- unfortunately all justified or overlooked by the USA.”⁵

Support for BDS (boycotts, divestment, and sanctions)

- PNGO is an active member of the BNC, the National Committee for the BDS campaign against Israel.⁶
- **Miftah** and **WATC** signed the “Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS” in 2005.⁷
- Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP) has signed petitions for economic and academic boycotts of Israel.⁸

Promoting the Goldstone Report Al-Dameer

- “Joint submission to HRC: Distressing Lack of Accountability and Justice for the Victims of the Conflict” (March, 2010): Calling for implementation and enforcement of the Goldstone Report.⁹
- “A Joint Open Letter to the Member States of the UN General Assembly from Palestinian Human Rights Organizations” (October 1, 2009): “That UN member states adopt a principled and determined stance, using the powers granted to the General Assembly under Resolution 377 A (V): ‘Uniting for Peace’ to: (1) recommend that Israel be subjected to the full weight of collective measures until its occupation of the OPT is ended and the rights of the Palestinian people are achieved; and (2) ensure that the recommendations of the Goldstone Report are followed in full in order to ensure that there is full accountability for the crimes committed in Gaza.”¹⁰

Miftah

- “Enough of blaming the Goldstone Report!” (Rami Khouri, December 17, 2009, originally in Daily Star): “The US and Israel appear sick as they keep attacking the Goldstone Report as the purported reason for the breakdown of peace negotiations, when the reality is that these negotiations have been going nowhere for decades under the weight of continued Israeli colonization of Arab lands, a policy impervious to any Arab or international pressure... The United States and Israel do not seem to care if their position runs against the grain of the rest of the world’s thinking. They seem comfortable

4 <http://www.miftah.org/Display.cfm?DocId=19100&CategoryId=5>

5 11 <http://www.watcpal.org/english/display.asp?DocID=123>

6 <http://www.pngo.net/default.asp?i=190>

7 <http://www.bdsmovement.net/call>

8 <http://www.al-awda.org/academicboycott.html>

9 <http://www.badil.org/en/haq-alawda/item/1414-joint-submission-to-hrc-distressing-lack-of-accountability-and-justice-for-the-victims-of-the-conflict>

10 <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/targets/united-nations/259-a-joint-open-letter-to-the-member-states-of-the-un-general-assembly-from-palestinian-human-rights-organizations>

smashing the global commitment to the rule of law, in order to protect the American-Israeli penchant for military supremacy as the only law that matters...”¹¹

GCMHP

- Highly offensive remarks by Eyad Sarraj, president of GCMHP, in testimony before the Goldstone Commission: “The Palestinian in the eyes of the Israeli soldier is not an equal human being. Sometimes this Palestinian even becomes a demon in their eyes. Therefore it is a state of demonization....inside Israel there is an identification with the aggressor, the Nazi.”¹²

Demonizing Israel for the flotilla Al-Dameer

- “Joint Open Letter to the UN Secretary General UN Panel of Inquiry Report on the Gaza Flotilla Incident Overly Flawed” (September 14, 2011): “We, the undersigned organizations, are gravely concerned about the severe failure of the Report of the UN Panel of Inquiry on the 31 May 2010 Flotilla Incident to adequately examine the overall questions related to the context in the Gaza Strip and the applicable legal framework therein....We, therefore, call upon you to seek authorisation from the UN General Assembly in order to request an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the naval blockade as part and parcel of the comprehensive closure regime imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip.”

GCMHP

- Press release, “A massacre on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla” (June 1, 2010): “GCMHP implores the international community to summon the courage to bring Israel before the International Court of Justice for their recurrent war crimes and flagrant violations of human rights...this attack...can only be described as an act of piracy and a serious violation of international law and human rights...”

Other examples of delegitimization Al-Dameer

- Statement before UNHRC, “From Condemnation to Action: Call for International Investigation into Israel’s Practices of Apartheid” (March 19, 2012): “These abuses are part of a systematic practice of apartheid, which has seen the noose grow ever tighter around the neck of the Palestinian people....We call upon this Council to recognise that Palestinians in the OPT are subject to practices of apartheid and to establish a fact-finding mission to examine Israel’s violations and to indicate how best to ensure respect for international law.” [The US government also opposed the creation of the “fact-finding mission.”]

Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)

- Press release, “Stop the Massacre in Gaza - Boycott Israel Now!” (December 27, 2008): “This latest bloodbath, although far more ruthless than all its predecessors, is not Israel’s first. It culminates months of an Israeli siege of Gaza that should be widely condemned and prosecuted as an act of genocide against the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied coastal strip.”¹³

¹¹ <http://www.miftah.org/Display.cfm?DocId=21267&CategoryId=5>

¹² http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/specialsession/9/docs/2009.06.29AM_Session.doc

¹³ <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/targets/united-nations/451-joint-open-letter-to-the-un-secretary-general-un-panel-of-inquiry-report-on-the-gaza-flotilla-incident-overly-flawed>